

Mainstreaming chemicals management into the Sustainable Development Agenda in Belarus

Belarus

The National Road Map was developed within the framework of the project “Establishment of key elements of national systems for sound management of chemicals in selected countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia” (funded by the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistant Programme [AAP], in cooperation with the German Environment Agency).

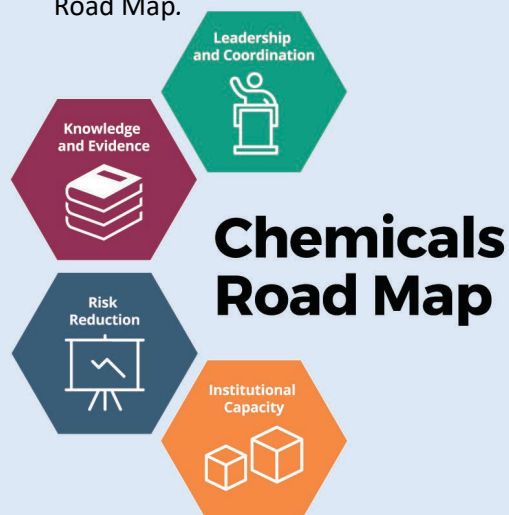
Goals and Objectives

The goal of the project was to mainstream chemicals management into the National Strategy for Sustainable Economic Development. The objectives were to:

- assess and build on the current status of chemical products management in Belarus;
- prioritize actions based on national assessment and evaluation of applicability of best available practice;
- plan actions and structure them into the Road Map to guide set-up of a system for sound chemicals management.

Target audience: Governmental bodies, industry, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

Activities: Review current situation to ensure dialogue with the government and industry (awareness raising, training, etc.), to develop and adopt the National Road Map.



Project Overview

Context

Belarus is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and shares responsibility for implementation of the EAEU legislation, including the Technical Regulation, “On safety of chemical product”. To adopt the regional legislation, a number of governmental decisions were taken, such as authorization for the Ministry of Health to lead chemical safety activities, identification of an institution for registration of chemicals, decision on implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), etc. Given that the chemical industry plays a substantial role in the economy, industrial production and export, setting up a system for sound chemicals management is important and will contribute not only to the protection of human health and the environment but also the economic development of the country. A wide range of actions in different areas of chemicals management need to be considered to ensure strong regulatory frameworks for chemicals management. These areas include legislation, capacity-building, institutional arrangements, information collection and sharing, and so on. A decision was made to develop a National Road Map in order to include these actions so as to guide further development of chemicals management in a cost-effective manner.

Approach

Key areas of the National Road Map have been determined to be in line with and to contribute to the National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development in the Republic of Belarus until 2030 (NSSSED-2030), which outlines the country’s main developmental goals and benchmarks, including in the area of chemical safety. When working on this Road Map, the authors were guided by the recommendations provided in the WHO Chemicals Road Map to Enhance Health Sector Engagement in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) towards the 2020 goal and beyond, as well as other policies in the area of chemical safety and chemicals management. The national Road Map was developed in consultation with relevant national governmental agencies, representatives of the leading institutions in the area of chemicals management, and with the participation of NGOs.



Results

The Road Map was developed for the authorized agencies responsible for decision-making in the area of chemical safety, local executive bodies, specialists from industry, public health professionals and representatives of public associations.

It was developed in consultation with relevant national governmental agencies, representatives of the leading institutions in the area of chemicals management, and with the participation of NGOs.

It identifies actions towards a sound chemicals management system, including those for which the health sector has a leading role to play, according to the national legislation.

Implementation of the Road Map will result in reduction of the adverse impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment; lead to increased synergies in implementation of the requirements of the Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions; create conditions for development of the chemical and other sectors of the national economy; and, as a result, contribute to achieving the country's Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Lessons Learned

The planning process should be preceded by an in-depth assessment of the national situation with chemicals management, economy and industry needs and development trends, conducting training for all stakeholders on main elements of a chemical safety system, and analysis of existing good practices.

A methodological approach to development of road maps most fitting to a country's reality should be considered at the very beginning of a road map development process.

Recommendations

- *Create working groups and invite all stakeholders to participate.*
- *Analyse the situation.*
- *Define priorities in consultation with interested parties.*
- *Mainstream chemicals management into other priorities of country development (economic development, health and environmental protection) and interlink actions to ensure a synergistic approach.*
- *Plan accordingly and structure the document to clearly demonstrate the way in which to move from the current situation to achieving the desired results.*
- *Agree on the National Road Map with all stakeholders to ensure its implementation.*

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This case study is one of a series of case studies coordinated by WHO to illustrate the implementation of the WHO Chemicals Road Map.



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